AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 26, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 5. NO. 39. WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915. WHOLE NO. 247.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

JURISDICTION ISSUE IS AN OLD PROBLEM

Cincinnati, Dec. 25.—"The question of jurisdiction existed with all of its disturbing features centuries ago," writes Editor Frey in the International Molders' Journal, who quotes history to show that these contentions were problems for trade unionists of the long ago.

The Joiners' gild of Hull, England, in 1386, provided that no joiner, wheelwright, carpenter, housewright, or other wright within this towne, shall make any joyner worke in any house, &c. The carpenters' gild answered this attack by adopting a law, the same year, which provided that "no joyner, wheelwright shall at any time or times in private or publicke worke and worke apperteyning properly to the carpenter to worke."

The Cobblers' gild of Hull, in 1632, passed the following law:

"That no shewmaker, or other person or persons, shall use or exercise the trade of a cobler for mendinge of shoes within this towne."

The brief glimpse into the past afforded by these gild laws, by Editor Frey, "is sufficient to enable us to realize that the problems which our trade unions contend with today are not entirely new or similar to those which troubled the workers centuries ago. It is one of the most serious evils in the labor movement, to be forced to contend with today, for while the jurisdictional dispute of today and yesterday may be settled, some change in methods of production, or the use of some new article of trade, will create a new question of which union shall have jurisdiction over the work.

"Some authorities, upheading the history of the past, have advocated an extreme industrial form of organization as a cure. In doing this, however, they close their eyes to the self-evident fact that such a form of organization, even if it could be put into effect today, or time, might minimize the number of smaller disputes that would arise in the very nature of things develop jurisdictional strife upon a larger scale than ever before, and result in hundreds of thousands in bitter jurisdictional disputes, where but hundreds are involved today. There would be millions of dollars involved, just as there are overlapping of trades today, and always have been.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Dec. 25.—During last October 27,235 immigrants came to this country, according to a report issued by the federal department of labor. Of this number, Greece led with 4,481, followed by Italy, with 1,930, Ireland, 1,697, England, 1,557 and Portugal, 1,050. There were 731 Japanese and 226 Chinese admitted.

The total included 4,564 servants, 4,174; farm laborers, 1,772. Of the skilled trades, clerks and accountants led with 1,000, followed by carpenters, 294; miners, 265; tailors, 199; cigarmakers, 184.

The industrial states received the largest proportion of these arrivals. New York leads with 4,301; Pennsylvania, 1,923, and Illinois, 906. Few immigrants were ticketed to southern or western territory. North Dakota, North Carolina received 1; Wyoming, 2; South Dakota and Alabama, 5 each; South Carolina, 6; Kansas, 7; Arkansas, 10; and Mississippi, Kentucky and Arkansas, none.

LABOR IS NOT A COMMODITY.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Members of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, in convention in this city, were given a jolt by Arthur J. Eddy, of Chicago, who discussed the labor features of the Clayton anti-trust law.

"Don't confound labor with so many pounds of pig or so many tons of sand or steel," said the speaker. "Labor is not a commodity. It is a human proposition and the sooner you gentlemen recognize that fact the better it will be for you."

It might be stated that the Chicago man is not a trade unionist, even though he expresses such views so long insisted by organized labor.

Mr. Eddy is a lawyer.

The federationists indorsed the workmen's compensation law and protested against the removal of Commissioner of state industrial commission for mere partisan reasons. This position is identical with that of organized labor.

CHILDREN MAKE CIGARS.

Detroit, Dec. 25.—Business Agent Jones of the Cigarmakers' union told federation of labor delegates that non-union cigar plants in this city give certificates of "competency" after one year's work, instead of six months, as the law says.

"A child works in a place of this kind for $1 a week," he declared, "and by the end of that dollar a week if she first works a year. At the end of that year she goes in given back pay at the rate of a dollar. During her apprenticeship she receives a certificate each week in which entitles her to a dollar for each certificate at the end of the year. Yet some men smoke the product of these shops, thinking they get excellent cigars made under humane conditions."

PROFITABLE SALE OF SHIPS.

San Francisco, Dec. 25.—Owners of the Pacific Mail Steamship company stock will receive $7,760,000 dividends when the company holds 130,400 shares, the remaining 89,200 shares being scattered. When it was first announced that Pacific Mail would sell the seamen's law was blamed. Unionists, however, pointed to the law governing the Panama canal which makes it illegal for railroad-owned vessels to operate and the involvements have verified the unionists' opinion.

AGAINST PRIVATE COMPANIES.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Attorney-General Turner has started proceedings in the state supreme court to oust a dozen or more fraternal companies that are now writing insurance in this state, with the permission of State Insurance Commissioner Vargart, who has ruled to this effect. The attorney general holds this is a violation of the state constitutional law.

The state federation of labor has led the fight against Commissioner Vargart's ruling and has employed counsel to contest the decision.

AN ANTI-UNION GEM.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 25.—In an address to the longshore men's association of this city, Earl G. Constantine pictured the beauties of the non-union shop and the evils of the union shop, which he insisted on terming "closed shop." His conception of individual rights he unburdened himself thusly:

"The closed shop is opposed to extra pay for the more efficient workmen."

"HANDS OFF REFERENDUM"

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 25.—The Ohio initiative and referendum law is yet on trial and any interference with this act by the courts would be unwarranted.

The above declaration was made by the state supreme court in the case of a Zanesville citizen who attacked the right of the city council to pass an an emergency measure, thereby preventing referendum, an ordinance for the preparation of plans for a filtration plant. The supreme court said:

"We are advised that the general assembly could not vest councils of municipalities with power to provide for the passage of emergency laws, nor would be inflicting upon them another and an essentially different sort of restriction than that provided for in the constitution, and one clearly not contemplated, either by the framers or the people who adopted it. The initiative and referendum theory of legislation has been in effect more than a century in Ohio and the principle may be fairly said to be yet on trial. Meanwhile it is the solemn duty of all courts to keep within the limits of laws giving to the provisions of the constitution on that subject a strained construction, in a manner to defeat its very burdensomeness and unreasonableness, would tend to deprive it of its force. Such a construction is as unwarranted as a judicial construction, tending to weaken or emasculate the theory."

"RHINOCEROS BIRD" THE LATEST

Washington, Dec. 25.—The committee on industrial relations delves into natural history for a term to express its opinion of manufacturers, who attacks the commission, and declares that "politicians, as a rule, are notable cowards, when it comes to facing demands made by labor organizations and a threat of loss of votes frequently frightens them into doing things their better conscience condemns."

This ill-tempered, hard-hammered attack is reprinted in full by the commission on industrial relations, with the following introduction:

"The article is written by one of those rhinoceros birds that are so common in Washington, that inhospitable land, also flourishes in African swamps. He perches on the back of the rhinoceros and feeds on the insects he finds there. He also hides. In return for this favor, he warns the rhinoceros of the approach of an enemy by flying into the air and uttering shrill cries.

"This particular rhinoceros bird chirps as follows:"

SHIPYARDS ARE RUSHED.

Washington, Dec. 25.—In a report by the commission on navigation it is declared that the tremendous activity in ship construction now more vessels than ever before, and that these vessels will add to the American merchant marine whose gross tonnage is already the largest in the country's history. At the present time there is a number of merchant vessels of more than 3,000 tons being built or under contract.

The total tonnage of ships under the American flag, numbering 26,838, December 1, was 8,858,324.

State officials hold that "station workers" are merely laborers paid on piece basis and that employers are responsible both for assessments on their accounts for industrial insurance and for violations of the anti-truck law. It is now claimed that Judge Wright's ruling will permit lumber workers, miners and many loggers and lumbermen to put practically all their work on a piece basis and not only violate the eight-hour law but destroy the effectiveness of the state compensation act.

IDEALS ARE VALUED.

Milwaukee, Dec. 25.—Ideals are the greatest thing in the world and should be encouraged, said Dr. Stephen Wise, the New York rabbi, in an address in this city.

"Ideals are the most worth-while things in the world," he declared. "To have an ideal and to be ever in the pursuit of it is to live a useful life. The men that the world honors are the men that have held to cherished ideals, even though in standing by their convictions they were a minority in the eyes of the world. Idealists, with their impractical visions, are always in the minority. They are always unpopular, because it is their work in the world to stab away the consciousness of the men about them. A majority does not like to be aroused from its slumbers, to hear indictments of things as they are, for such indictments are a reflection upon them. Over and over the idealist has rendered the world priceless service."

RAILROADERS ASK EIGHT HOURS.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—The fight of over 200,000 railroad men in this country and Canada for an eight-hour day was launched this week at a joint conference of representatives of the brotherhoods of engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen. Nearly 100 delegates were present. At previous district conferences the shorter workday was favored and the gathering referred to above was called for the purpose of joint counsel.

As a result of the conference the four brotherhood representatives are sending ballots per a referendum to their affiliated organizations.

POSTAL SAVINGS LARGE.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The growth of the postal savings system during the last fiscal year is the largest in the history of the postoffice department, according to the annual report of Third Assistant Postmaster General Dockery.

On June 30, the last day of the fiscal year, there were 525,414 depositors who had to their credit in postal savings banks the sum of $95,685,915. This was an increase of about 137,000 individual depositors, and more than $22,000,000 in deposits within the twelve months, the report says.

METAL POLISHERS' WEARY WAIT

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Dec. 25.—President Parsons of the Metal Mine and Cycle Trades' union, which includes grinders and metal polishers, is protesting at the inaction of the wages board that sets wages in this industry. The unionist declares that the board has been sitting for two years, but has not yet made an award. As it is illegal to strike, the union has called a meeting to discuss the question.

COOKS AND WAITERS WINNING.

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 25.—Cooks and waiters are winning their fight for living conditions. In several large restaurants these workers have secured the following scale: $18 per; following minimum wage: Waiters, $2 per day; first cook, $15 per week; second cook, $16. The failure of employers to secure an injunction that would limit picketing was a factor in these settlements.

WANT UNIONISM STUDIED.

Minneapolis, Dec. 25.—The special organizing committee of the Trades and Labor Assembly appeared before the school board and asked that unionism and collective bargaining be made a part of the school studies. The unionists were requested to present their plan in writing and embody their idea of methods.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 25.—The Meat Cutters' union wants to reduce the workday and has declared that 10 hours is sufficient in these times, when the trend of opinion is toward eight hours.

LET UNIONISTS CONTRIBUTE ONE HOUR'S PAY TO DESPOILED HATTERS

Jan. 27 Will Recall Historic Fight Made by Workers of Danbury

Washington, Dec. 25.—The Danbury hatters have performed a service of historic importance in the struggle for industrial freedom," declares the American Federation of Labor executive council, in a circular issued to all unions calling on organized workers to contribute the wages of an hour's labor, the second hour of the work day or shift of January 27, 1916, for the benefit of despoiled Danbury hatters.

The council's action is under authority of the American Federation of Labor convention, held in San Francisco, last month.

"The fight in which the hatters of Danbury, Conn., find themselves arouses the concern and the sympathy of all the workers as well as of all the liberty-loving citizens of America," says the executive council, "which recounts the injustices trade unionists have suffered by reason of court interpretations of the Sherman anti-trust law that human beings are in the same category with commodities, and are subject to injunction processes that denied them rights guaranteed free men and women.

"The hatters' resistance against these iniquities, together with court processes financed by the American Federation of Labor, emphasized these wrongs and resulted in the passage by congress of the Clayton amendment to the anti-trust law in which it is declared that "The labor power of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

In addition to this clear declaration that there is a difference between labor power and articles of commerce—to which trust laws properly apply—the Clayton amendment limits and regulates the use of the injunction writ, and forbids its use for purposes against which the workers and their unions have protested.

This establishment of fundamental rights, this acknowledgment by congress that workers own their labor power and cannot be compelled to work by employer or judge—is an epoch in American industrial history.

The men around whom this successful battle revolved, however, are now destitute. Their bank deposits and homes have been attached to insure payment of an approximate $200,000 court award that was made before the Clayton act was passed. Many of the despoiled hatters have been evicted from their homes. They are no longer able to work, and with their homes and savings swept from them they are in a destitute condition as a result of a fight that ended so triumphantly for American toiling men and women.

On the plane of the struggle, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor says:

"The Danbury hatters did not falter in that which they did for the benefit of all organized labor and for all the workers of the country. They did their duty; they made the test and upon them has fallen the consequences of the injustice of the then existing conditions. All other workers participate in the benefits which have grown out of their struggle, and it is but just that they should also help to relieve the victims. If the Danbury hatters or the hatters' organization were left to bear the full weight of the burden, it will mean to them great suffering and great hardship. Every member of organized labor is urged to do his duty in this matter and to bear his share in the common struggle to establish industrial justice.

Members of local unions should pay their contributions to their local secretaries, who should forward the sum collected to Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., Washington, who will receipt for same and forward it to Secretary Lawlor of the United Hatters of North America.

This money shall be used for the exclusive purpose of relieving the hatters who were made the victims of the greed and rapacity of the so-called "Anti-Boycott association" and Loewe, the Danbury hat manufacturer. Secretary Lawlor will keep a complete list of all contributions received and the payments made and to whom.

The date agreed to by the convention—January 27—was selected as particularly appropriate, because it is the birthday of the president of the American Federation of Labor, who has given a lifetime of devotion to the cause of industrial freedom.

The executive council's circular closes as follows:

"Meetings for the purposes indicated might be held with fitting exercises to help bind the organized toilers of America more closely together with bonds of fraternity, sympathy and mutual helpfulness and a greater determination to struggle unitedly on for the dawn of a better day among the toilers of earth.

"Men and women of labor, give an hour—an hour of your labor—in a most righteous cause!"

EIGHT-HOUR LAW WEAKENED.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 25.—The theory that an eight-hour work day can be secured by the easy process of legislative enactment appeals to some unionists, but those workers have again been awakened to the devious ways by which this legislation may be weakened and nullified by the state, if the Thurston county superior court.

The court has ruled that "station workers" under dayd and railroad contractors are not employes but subcontractors, and this decision, if sustained by the supreme court, means the wiping out of the eight-hours' public works law, according to Labor Commissioner Hall, Chairman Daggart of the industrial insurance commission is quoted as saying this decision opens the doors for limitless evasions of the workmen's compensation act.

State officials hold that "station workers" are merely laborers paid on piece basis and that employers are responsible both for assessments on their accounts for industrial insurance and for violations of the anti-truck law. It is now claimed that Judge Wright's ruling will permit lumber workers, miners and many loggers and lumbermen to put practically all their work on a piece basis and not only violate the eight-hour law but destroy the effectiveness of the state compensation act.

DOES UNIONISM PAY!

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Truck Drivers' Union, No. 705, the largest single local affiliated to the Brotherhood of Teamsters, has raised wages $1.50 a week for every man driving a team or automobile. Employers first offered a 50-cent increase and finally 75 cents, but the 1,500 truckers stuck by their original demand, which was finally agreed to, and a contract signed.

General President Tobin of the brotherhood cites the history of this local, formed in 1902, to show the success of unionism. He shows that since that time single drivers have received $1,924 and double drivers $2,782 over the rates they received when the union was organized. During this time these workers have paid on an average of 40 cents a month into the local union.

The gains may also answer the question, "Why do some employers oppose the trade union movement?"

PREPARING FOR IMMIGRATION.

New York, Dec. 25.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is preparing for increased immigration after the European war. This organization is not anxious to get immigrants here at large, but it is sending circulars to railroads asking for their recommendations for the proper distribution of the incoming population. The immigration committee of the chamber, of which Frank A. Trumbull is chairman, has charge of this work. Mr. Trumbull is an officer of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway and is also a leading member of the National Americanism Committee, a New York organization that was recently called upon by Frank B. Walsh to declare for trade unionism if it really intended to be of much value.

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR MINERS.

Trinidad, Col., Dec. 25.—Judge Cavender of Leadville has sustained attorneys for Lode Mine Workers with that miners indicted on charges growing out of the recent strike should be tried elsewhere. The court declared that conditions existing in this county made a change of venue justifiable. The court complimented the miners' attorneys for the splendid case they presented, and said the state had failed completely in sustaining its point.

HIGHER WAGES FOR MACHINISTS.

Cincinnati, Dec. 25.—The brewers' board of trade has raised wages 2½ cents per hour for all machinists employed in local breweries affiliated to the board. The old agreement expired July 1 and the new rate will apply from that date.

FASHIONS CAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington, Dec. 25.—Unemployment is more uncertain in shoe factories than in any other industry, except the men's and women's clothing industries, according to a report issued by the department of labor. Investigation of wages in these seasonal fluctuations are largely due to the so-called "fashion" factor, which manufacturers regard as necessary because of the rapid changes in fashion and the uncertainty in regard to the styles which will be used.

Some indication of the instability of the wage-earning class among women workers is given by the fact that the number of women employed in the week of maximum employment in the weeks or more, all adult, experienced and steady workers. Three-fifths earned less than $10 a year and not far from one-half earned only $450 or less.

"Unquestionably, however, these earnings," says the report, "exceed those of any other large body of factory workers."

The report of the labor bureau will stand prominently as a result of investigations of women shoe workers—fluctuations that make steady employment impossible, and, as a consequence of this irregularity of work, the difficulty of securing a full, steady and experienced women shoe workers, when earnings are distributed over the year.

WELL-KNOWN UNIONISTS DEAD.

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 25.—John Campbell, well known member of the Iron Molders' union, died in this city, aged 69 years. In 1888 deceased was elected a member of the executive board of the Iron Molders' International union, and for almost the same time was variously held positions of trust in that organization.

Indianapolis, Dec. 25.—Samuel M. Ralston, editor of the Mine Workers' Journal from 1901 to 1909, died in this city. Deceased was an able writer on trade union and other economic subjects.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNITING.

New York, Dec. 25.—President Golden, of the United Textile Workers of America, reports that during the months of October and November 2,700 workers were organized in the federation, which is conducting an effective campaign in the southern states.

SHIP YARD WORKERS STRIKE.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 25.—Low wages is the reason for a strike of 400 employes of the Seattle Construction and Drydock company. One-half of these workers are boilermakers and shipbuilders. The strikers demand higher rates and pay for overtime.

STENOGRAPHERS TO UNITE.

Boston, Dec. 25.—Stenographers have issued a call to form an Office Workers' union. Girls in offices do not come under the state 54-hour law and although them are receiving less than $6 a week.

"PUT THE UNEMPLOYED ON PUBLIC LAND," SAYS SECRETARY OF LABOR WILSON

Washington, Dec. 25.—In his annual report, Secretary of Labor Wilson says that public employment service of a national character must go beyond merely hunting "maniess jobs" for "jobless men." He declares that there is better policy of dealing with the causes of involuntary unemployment, which will express themselves "to the great benefit of this department, and of states and municipal public employment offices throughout the United States, would be vastly augmented.

"For such a policy the homestead laws seem to afford a legislative basis and their history to furnish valuable suggestions.

"The necessary condition is that the general government shall retain title to the public lands it already holds, and acquire such lands as they may from time to time need to supply the demand. There are extensive areas of privately owned but unused farming land in most of the states which might be acquired by the general government for promoting labor opportunities as advantageously as other areas have been acquired or retained by it for the creation of public parks. If congress were to adopt, with reference to these lands, a policy of utilizing them for promoting opportunities for employment, the benefits of the labor district, the great bulk of this department, and of states and municipal public employment offices throughout the United States, would be vastly augmented.

"For such a policy the homestead laws seem to afford a legislative basis and their history to furnish valuable suggestions.

"The necessary condition is that the general government shall retain title to the public lands it already holds, and acquire such lands as they may from time to time need to supply the demand. There are extensive areas of privately owned, as are held out of use and may be acquired. Still another condition is that the government from time to time shall acquire title to such privately owned lands in different states as may be usefully devoted to the purpose of opening opportunities for employment."

With the above as the basis for his theory, Secretary Wilson proposes the way by which inflation of land values may be prevented. He then suggests that the departments of the interior, of agriculture and of labor unify their efforts to "make efficient farmers and satisfied citizens out of unemployed workers seeking that vocation."

"Pursuant to such unification," he continues, "congress might provide a system of long-time, low-interest loans, that is, a fund to be used over and over again for those purposes, and to be administered by the secretaries of the department of labor, to settlers placed by this department upon lands set apart for that purpose. The precedents with the authorized plan for thus augmenting labor opportunities. These would be safeguarded, without commercial collateral, by resting them upon the best possible basis of industrial credit—ability, opportunity and character—and by establishing in connection with them a system of community credits adapted to the circumstances.

"It is a reasonable prediction that such a policy would develop in country and city an economically independent and socially progressive population. The results would be an increase of the value of the unsold homestead laws at an earlier period."

COMPENSATION LAW VALID

New York, Dec. 25.—Writing in the Bulletin, issued monthly by the New York state industrial commission, F. Spencer Baldwin, member of the state workmen's compensation fund, says "the trend of judicial opinion throughout the country has been favorable to the constitutionality of workmen's compensation acts, and to the broadest and most liberal construction of their provisions."

He says the decision of the New York court of appeals in the Ives case, which invalidated the New York workmen's compensation act of 1910, is the only court decision on record adverse to the principle of workmen's compensation legislation. "This decision was so strong in the minds of employers," writes Mr. Baldwin, "that it was not difficult for insurance brokers to frighten them successfully by the bugaboo of unconstitutionality."

Since then the court of appeals has handed down contrary opinions. In the case of Mountain Jensen versus the Southern Pacific Railway company, this court states:

"This subject should be viewed in the light of modern conditions, not those under which the common law doctrines were developed. With the change in industrial conditions, an opinion has gradually developed that it is more universally favors a more just and economical system of providing compensation for accidents of employees as a substitute for wasteful and protracted damage suits usually unjust in their results either to the employer or the employe, and sometimes to both. Surely it is competent for the state, in the exercise of the general welfare, to require both the employer and the employe to yield something in pursuance of a reasonable principle. The principle and plan of compensation is for their mutual protection and advantage."

WOULD USE IMMIGRANTS.

New York, Dec. 25.—The Garment Worker, official newspaper of the United Hebrew Trades of America, takes exception to the statement of William S. Kies, vice president of the United Realty Co., of New York city, who is quoted as expressing the opinion that labor must prepare for pressing wants after the war.

"There is found, very vividly expressed," says the Garment Worker, "the hope of a vast number of employers, that there will be a flood of immigration to this country at the close of hostilities which can be utilized as a club to beat down the standard of wages and living which have been established by the trade union movement after many years of struggle.

"The contention of trade unionists that the main sympathy of the friends of the dollar sign patriots for the 'down trodden' immigrant was based upon selfishness and a desire to exploit them to their own, as well the detriment of the workers already in this country, is now receiving ample verification."

WHY JAPANESE ARE OPPOSED.

San Francisco, Dec. 25.—At a lunch given by Baron Shibusawa, the famous financier, to several trade union officials, these workers frankly told the Japanese that the opposition to the Japanese in California is not racial, but economic. It was the fear of the cheap, though ignorance, Japanese would take their jobs because they would work cheaper, and thereby lower the living standards that American wage workers objected to this latest invasion.

Baron Shibusawa acknowledged that his country must reckon with organized labor, as industry develops in Japan.

WANT CHINESE SAILORS.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Congressman Humphrey, of Washington, has introduced a bill providing for the repeal of section 13 of the seamen's act. This section makes it compulsory for vessels to employ a crew 75 per cent of whom can understand the language of the ship's officers. Provision is also made regarding able seamen.

If the western congressman succeeds in repealing the section vessels owners will be unrestricted in their employment of Chinese or other Oriental sailors.

MORE COMPENSATION LAWS.

Washington, Dec. 25.—In a bulletin, No. 165, issued by the department of labor, attention is called to the rapid growth of the idea of compensation of workmen for injuries received in the course of employment. During the present year the following states approved workmen's laws: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wyoming, besides the territories of Alaska and Hawaii. Thus the total to 21 states and the territories of Alaska and Hawaii that now have compensation laws.

PROMISE TO REDUCE HOURS.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 25.—The Garment Workers' District Council has secured an agreement with the Max & Haas company, which provides that on or before May 1 of next year workers in their factories will be given the fifty-hour week. It is also agreed that a five-year agreement is in effect, and which will expire in 1917, will be reopened on or before April 1, 1916, to readjust wage scales and other conditions.

WIN TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 25.—The city council has agreed that the wages of public servants to reduce their workday. It was necessary to secure the passage of a bill by the state legislature before the Pittsburg authorities could act.

OPEN FREE LABOR BUREAUS.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 25.—State Labor Commissioner McLaughlin has opened free employment bureaus in Sacramento and San Jose. It is said that he has organized a state scheme, which, it is declared, is intended to attempt the defeat of the state ventures.

INCREASES FOR TRACTION MEN.

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 25.—The Lehigh Valley Traction company announces voluntary increases for 200 trackmen employes. Rates are raised 1 cent an hour with additional increases for those who have been employed 5 or 10 years.

PAINTERS SIGN AGREEMENT.

Youngstown, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Painters' union and the Master Painters' association have signed a two-year wage agreement and ended a long strike.

WILL CONGRESS PRINT WALSH PROBE REPORT?

Washington, Dec. 25.—The report of the commission on industrial relations has been referred to the committee on printing by the house of representatives.

When Speaker Clark announced the report was before the house, Congressman Lewis, chairman of the committee on labor, moved that 20,000 copies of the final report and 10,000 copies of all testimony taken be printed. In the final report is the summing up of the various groups of the commission.

Following a debate on parliamentary procedure, the speaker ruled that according to the rules and practices of the house the resolution was not privileged. No opposition to printing the report developed at this time, although Congressman Davis of Texas took occasion to say:

"While I am not familiar with your rules and regulations and the rule in which you have run before, I understand it to be a very inopportune time for any man to become contemptuous or picayunish over the printing of a matter that the whole country and the whole civilized world has got its eyes on. There are more than 40,000,000 people in this country interested in the development made in the investigation as to the land monopolies of Texas, and they are anxious and heart-throbbing about it, and the affairs of Labor and the bank ers and business men in the state have insisted that this report and these questions of action upon it must be put in such tangible shape that they can get the facts and that the whole matter must be put before them.

"The press paraded the fact that there were 40,000 words in the report. It ought to be sent to the junk pile. I want to notify you right now that if there is a single one of those votes to have it go to the junk pile, you will meet on the stump where he gets back to Texas in the next campaign."

The committee on printing, which will make recommendations on the number of copies to be printed, consists of Congressman Barnhart, Indiana, chairman; Tavenner, Illinois, and Kiess, of Pennsylvania.

WHY SEAMEN PROTESTED.

New York, Dec. 25.—Writing in the New York Times, C. S. Stanwich, a retired United States naval officer, suggests certain changes in the seamen's act, although he makes the distinct acknowledgment of degrading conditions that the seamen were forced to accept prior to the law's passage.

"Sailors have for generations been outlaws. The master of a merchant vessel was in his rights, and custom or common usage, that equally with law protects him in the relations of service, has always been invoked against any attempt to better the sailor's life.

"Dragged from his comfortable from drugs or drink, he is told that he has signed articles before the mast and that two or three months of his future work has been paid in advance to the crimp who made the original shanghai on board. Ill-clad, ill-fed, hard-worked, he is at the mercy of the officers of the ship, who, made arrogant by the code of brute force, and if he resists being knocked down. Shocked and kicked about, he renders himself liable to death by mutiny when the ship arrives in port, he attempts to desert and thereby violates the law throws him in prison, and then returns him to his ship, and he pays the expenses."

CHILD LABOR DAY, JAN. 23.

New York, Dec. 25. The fourth Sunday of next month, Jan. 23, will be child labor day, when in all the Sunday schools affiliated to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America will call attention to child labor services, to the evils of child labor in this country. On Saturday, Jan. 22, syndicates will release articles for that day and on Monday, Jan. 24, secular schools and clubs.

The national child labor committee has issued a circular urging that the day be made effective. It is stated that 2,000,000 children are now at work, suffering physical, mental and moral harm because the American people do not know. If these children are to become useful citizens the nation must be informed of their plight. Special attention is directed to the Keating-Owen federal child labor bill, now before congress, which forbid the interstate shipment of child labor products. A similar bill was introduced at the last congress, but failed to pass.

TO STOP FLYING DUST.

Milwaukee, Dec. 25.—At a conference of trade union officials and state industrial commissioners it was decided that a special commission, consisting of employers and employes shall be appointed to make a survey of working conditions and recommend remedies. One of the most serious dangers, workers pointed out, is the presence of flying dust, especially in the metal trades, polishing and buffing, as present systems are inadequate to protect workmen. One metal polisher brought in 14 tubes of dust he gathered the members of his craft last year, if were due to tuberculosis caused by flying dust.

DISCUSSES COLORADO.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 25.—In an address delivered under the auspices of the local Labor Union, Alfred M. Atkinson, social service commissioner of the Congregational church, declared the operators's grants to the miners of Colorado are not in the language of democracy, but that the "striking out by these workers need to have anything handed them—they are able to take for themselves." He said that the intolerable rule of mine workers was the strikebreakers brought in by the mine owners. Not long ago were the strikebreakers brought in 19 years before that and those in turn had been strikebreakers.

STATE SHOWS UNIONISM PAYS.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Investigations conducted in Ohio's 16 largest cities by the state bureau of labor statistics show that hundreds of workers have received increases averaging from 30 cents to $1 per day, since the passage of the law. In the report union workmen are classified into seven groups: brewery employes, building trades, clothing, metal, book printing, newspaper printing and miscellaneous trades. The report covers the 12 months' period ending May, 1915.

SHOP MEN RECEIVE INCREASES.

Massillon, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Wages of 1,500 shop employes of the Wheeling & Lake Erie railway have been increased 3 cents an hour as the result of conferences between the management and brotherhood committee elected by interested unionists.